Board have not signed a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) for the 1040 MW Visakhapatnam Thermal Power Project. The PPA, when finalised would have to co-ordinate the related contracts associated with project finance, such as the Engineering Procurement and Construction Contract, Fuel Supply and Transportation Agreement, Operations and Maintenance contract and Equity and Financing agreements, under a specific common term, termination and performance obligations. In general, it defines the boundary conditions for the contracting agencies to operate, bringing out their respective responsibilities, obligations to each other and performance expectations.

(b) and (c) The Government have recently resolved certain issues necessary to enable CIL/Coal Company to supply washed coal to the power station being set up by M/s. Hinduja National Power Corporation Ltd. (HNPCL) at Visakhapatnam. Coal India Limited is in the process of preparing a legally enforceable Coal Supply and Transport Contract for supply of coal to this power station to be entered into between M/s. HNPCL and MCL.

Modernisation work in coal mines in Maharashtra

478. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether CIL has taken up modernisation work and application of new technologies in the coal mines situated in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof, minewise;

(c) whether these steps of CIL are likely to augment the production of coal in the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) and (b) 50 coal mines are being worked by Western Coalfields Limited (WCL) in the State of Maharashtra. Out of these coal mines, 25 mines are opencast and 25 are underground. All opencast mines are mechanised and are being worked by modern/new technology deploying dragline, shovels, etc. Out of 25 underground coal mines, modernisation/ new technology has been introduced in 11 coal mines. The list of opencast mines/ coal projects are indicated in statement-I and II (*see* below). The names of UG mines where modernisation has been introduced is given in Annexure-II. In addition, modern communication system has been introduced in all mines.

(c) and (d) Steps taken by the Company (WCL) in this regard have resulted in increasing the production in the State of Maharashtra which is evident from the table given below:

	(Production in M. Tes.) 1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
Production of WCL from mines in Maha-rashtra	21.07	22.82	24.86

Statement-I

NAME OF PRODUCING OPENCAST MINES IN MAHARASHTRA STATE

1. Ballarpur
2. Gauri-I
3. Gauri-II
4. New Dhuptala Sector-C
5. Sasti
6. Bhatadih
7. Durgapur
8. Hindustan Lalpeth
9. Padampur
10. Ghugus
11. Niljai-I
12. Niljai-II
13. Mugoli
14. Naigaon/Bellora
15. Kolarpimpri

16. Pimpalgaon
17. Ukni
18. Chargaon
19. Kawadi
20. New Majri
21. Sirna
22. Telwasa
23. Kamptee
24. Gondegaon
25. Umrer

Statement-II

NAME OF UNDERGROUND MINES IN MAHARASHTRA WHERE MECHANISATION HAS BEEN INTRODUCED

1. Saoner UG Mine No. 1
2. Saoner UG Mine No. 2
3. Saoner UG Mine No. 3
4. Makardhokra-II UG Mine
5. Ballarpur UG Mine
6. Sasti UG Mine
7. Rajur UG Mine
8. Hindustan Lalpeth UG Mine
9. Patansaongi UG Mine
10. New Majri UG Mine
11. Nakoda UG Mine

World Bank loan for prevention of fire in Jharia Coal Field

479. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that World Bank is about to sanction or has sanctioned a loan of Rs. 4,000 crores for tackling fire and its related problems of Jharia Coal Field;

(b) if so, the name of the agency which prepared the plan for rehabilitation and to safeguard Jharia Coal Field from disaster;

(c) what is the cost of planning/ feasibility study or report;

(d) the basis on which loan has been sanctioned;

(e) whether feasibility study covered evacuation and rehabilitation of inhabitants of the area;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) No, Sir. However, it is to be mentioned that with the objective of finding a long-term solution to the problem of Jharia Coalfield fires, a detailed diagnostic study was undertaken under the Jharia Mine Fire Control Technical Assistance Project with World Bank assistance. World Bank sanctioned a credit of US $ 12 million against the total cost of the project estimated as US$14.3 million. This project has two components—one for development of fire fighting programme for each of the known fires in Jharia Coalfield and the other for preparing an Environmental Management Plan with the objective of mitigating the adverse effect of mining operations on the environment and the people living in the area.

(b) For fire fighting programme an International consultant namely, M/s. GAI-METCHEM Joint Venture USA/ Canada having extensive experience in the control of mine fires had been engaged, while for Environmental Management Plan, an International Consultant namely M/s. Norwest Mine Services Limited Canada having extensive experience in preparation of Environmental Management Plan had been appointed to work in close liaison with Bharat Coking Coal Ltd.

(c) to (g) The total cost of Jharia Mine Fire Control Technical Assistance Project had been estimated as US $ 14.3 million, of which the World Bank sanctioned a credit of US$12million. The diagnostic study has been completed and report submitted. As per the report, 10,800 families are residing in the high risk zone of environmental pollution.

News-item "CBI frames five officials of Super Bazar"

480. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of